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PATENT  
32860-000278/USSerial No: 10/084,153  
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

4/4

Applicants: Christiane FOERTSCH and Toni KRESS

RECEIVED

Application No.: NEW

APR 16 2002

Filed: February 28, 2002

Technology Center 2100

For: COMPUTER-AIDED CONFIGURATION TOOL AND  
APPARATUS**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 9, 2002

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

**I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications and other information submitted for consideration by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

**II. COPIES**

A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial NumberU.S. Filing Date

C. ☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☐ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☐ See the attached foreign search report.
2. ☐ English translations are provided for:
3. ☐ Other:

C. ☒ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration:

English Abstracts are attached for the Examiner's convenience.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☐ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. A copy of each co-pending application is attached for the Examiner's information. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☒ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. \_\_\_\_ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

☐ before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

☐ after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. ☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)); or

B. ☐ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ☐ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

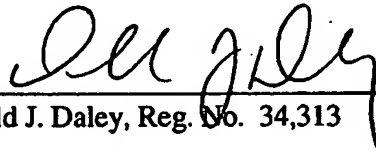
If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16  
or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910  
Reston, Virginia 20195  
(703) 390-3030



Form PTO-1449

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
IN AN APPLICATION**

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
32860-000278/USAPPLICATION NO.  
NEW

APPLICANT

CONF. NO.  
UNKNOWN

FILING DATE

GROUP  
UNKNOWN**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB<br>CLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|---------------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|--------------|-------------------------------|
|                     |                 |      |      |       |              |                               |
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|                     |                 |      |      |       |              |                               |

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APR 16 2002

Technology Center 2100

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

|    | DOCUMENT NUMBER  | DATE     | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB<br>CLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|----|------------------|----------|---------|-------|--------------|-------------|----|
|    |                  |          |         |       |              | YES         | NO |
| WJ | DE 196 40 296.4  | 4/2/98   | GERMANY |       |              | ABST.       |    |
|    | DE 199 10 536 A1 | 9/14/00  | GERMANY |       |              | ABST.       |    |
|    | DE 199 18 810    | 11/02/00 | GERMANY |       |              | ABST.       |    |
|    | DE 198 43 492 A1 | 1/13/00  | GERMANY |       |              | ABST.       |    |
| WJ | DE 3911465 A1    | 10/1/90  | GERMANY |       |              | ABST.       |    |
|    |                  |          |         |       |              |             |    |
|    |                  |          |         |       |              |             |    |
|    |                  |          |         |       |              |             |    |

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

(Include Name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume- issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.

|    |  |
|----|--|
| WJ | Wolfgang KAUFER et al.: "Konfigurierungskonzepte für DB-basierte technische Entwurfsanwendungen", <u>Informatik Forsch. Entw.</u> , (1998) 13: 1-17. |
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EXAMINER

*W Jones*

DATE CONSIDERED

7/31/05

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 10/084,153  
Filing Date: February 28, 2002  
Applicant: Christiane FOERTSCH et al.  
Group Art Unit: 2185  
Examiner: Unknown  
Conf.: 4915  
Title: COMPUTER-AIDED CONFIGURATION TOOL AND APPARATUS  
Attorney Docket: 32860-000278/US

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
220 20<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Customer Window Mail Stop Amendment  
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03  
Arlington, VA 22202

December 20, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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A. ☒ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. ☐ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. ☐ Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. ☐ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. ☒ Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. ☐ A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ☐ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2. ☐ English translations are provided for:
3. ☐ Other:

C. ☐ The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A. ☐ The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit



V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. ☐ within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. ☐ within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. ☒ before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. ☐ before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

- ☐ before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.
1. ☐ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
  2. ☐ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. ☐ 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

- ☐ after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.
1. ☐ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

- A. ☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or
- B. ☐ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).
- C. ☐ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

- ☐ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

- A. ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.
- B. ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

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Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 08-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNES, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By   
Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313

P.O. Box 8910  
Reston, Virginia 20195  
(703) 668-8000

DJD/js

Enclosures:

☒  
☒  
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Form PTO-1449(s)  
Documents  
Foreign Search Report  
Fee  
Other:

FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1



|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| ATTORNEY DOCKET No.        | SERIAL No. |
| 32860-000278/US            | 10/084,153 |
| APPLICANT                  |            |
| Christiane FOERTSCH et al. |            |
| FILING DATE                | GROUP      |
| February 28, 2002          | 2185       |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ref. Desig. | Examiner's Initials | Document Number | Date | Name | Class/ Subclass | (If appropriate) Filing Date |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|------|------|-----------------|------------------------------|
|             |                     |                 |      |      |                 |                              |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Ref. Desig. | Examiner's Initials | Document Number | Date       | Country | Class/ Subclass | Translation Yes | No |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|------------|---------|-----------------|-----------------|----|
|             | RJ                  | WO 93/01557 A1  | 01/21/1993 | WIPO    |                 |                 |    |
|             | RJ                  | WO 98/33104 A2  | 07/30/1998 | WIPO    |                 |                 |    |
|             |                     |                 |            |         |                 |                 |    |
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|             |                     |                 |            |         |                 |                 |    |
|             |                     |                 |            |         |                 |                 |    |
|             |                     |                 |            |         |                 |                 |    |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| Ref. Desig. | Examiner's Initials |  |
|-------------|---------------------|--|
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Examiner:

*RJ Jones*

Date Considered:

7/31/05

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.